

8.07.06

Meeting Summary

A. GROUP: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Public Advisory Group (PAG)

B. DATE: October 26, 1999

C. LOCATION: Anchorage, Alaska

D. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
Chuck Meacham (Chair)	Science/Academic
Torie Baker	Commercial Fishing
Chris Beck*	Public-at-Large
Dan Hull*	Public-at-Large
Jim King	Public-at-Large
Howard Valley	Forest Products
Ed Zeine	Local Government
Pamela Brodie*(by phone from Homer)	Environmental
Mary McBurney*	Aquaculture
Chip Dennerlein*	Conservation
Brenda Schwantes*(by phone from Kodiak)	Public-at-Large
Senator Loren Leman*	Alaska State Senate (<i>ex officio</i>)

*part of meeting

E. NOT REPRESENTED:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
Rupert Andrews	Sport Hunting and Fishing
Sheri Buretta	Subsistence
Dave Cobb	Public-at-Large
Stacy Studebaker	Recreation User
Charles Totemoff	Native Landowners
John Harris	Alaska State House of Representatives (<i>ex officio</i>)
vacant	Commercial Tourism

F. OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Molly McCammon	Trustee Council, Executive Director
Phil Mundy	Trustee Council, Science Coordinator
Hugh Short	Trustee Council Restoration Office
Joe Hunt	Trustee Council Restoration Office
Sandra Schubert	Trustee Council Restoration Office

Bob Spies
Marianne See
Carol Fries
Kelly Zeiner
Russell Knibe
Greg Kellog
Stan Senner

Chief Scientist, Trustee Council
AK Dept of Environmental Conservation
AK Dept of Natural Resources
AK Dept of Natural Resources
AK Dept of Environmental Conservation
US Environmental Protection Agency
Alaska Audubon Society

G. SUMMARY:

Chuck Meacham chaired the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. A quorum was not present to approve the meeting summary for July 15-16, 1999 meeting - but was present at 2:06 p.m. The summary was approved unanimously.

A public comment period was held at 1:30 p.m. - with no public present to testify.

Four briefings/reports were given to the PAG.

Molly McCammon gave the Executive Director's report. The PAG held a successful field trip to Cordova and Tatitlek on September 14-15, 1999. The PAG met with Prince William Sound Science Center staff concerning its program and with Cordova Mayor Ed Zeine and members of the Cordova City Council regarding a proposed community facility for which they are seeking some undetermined amount of EVOS support. The PAG also toured the Fleming Spit recreational fishing project and the EVOS waste oil collection building. A public meeting was held in the evening, with two members of the public in attendance. The second day, two separate groups flew to Tatitlek, flying over lands acquired by the Forest Service through the Tatitlek large parcel project, and met with Village Chief Gary Kompkoff. The PAG toured the village, including the mariculture/fish and game processing facility. There has been no recent movement on proposed legislation to get EVOS money invested outside of the U.S. Treasury. Staff are working with Senator Stevens' office to get the legislation attached as a rider to an appropriations bill. The 2000 annual workshop is scheduled for Jan 18-19, at the Captain Cook Hotel. The Trustee Council will meet by teleconference December 16 at 11 a.m. to address the remaining deferred projects for the FY 00 work plan. The contract with Chugachmiut for Phase 1 of the Archaeology project has been signed. Northern Economics has been selected to provide extensive review of the feasibility/business plan being developed as part of Phase 1.

CIIMMS - Cook Inlet Information and Management Monitoring System. This is a ADEC/ADNR sponsored project developing a centralized database of information important to focusing on Cook Inlet watershed natural resources and environmental data. The first year funding provided for a user needs workshop and development of a prototype web-based database focused on the Kenai River. The prototype is now being reviewed and tested by potential users. The system has search and browse functions, as well as the ability for users to contribute their own material to the database.

The prototype will be peer reviewed by the Chief Scientist before the Council takes action on

future year 2 funding. Year 1 costs were \$335,000. Year 2 requested funding is approximately \$460,000 with an additional \$140,000 requested for year 3.

ADEC and ADNR have committed to maintaining the database, once it is developed, although they are also hoping for financial support from other users. When complete the prototype will access six data sets.

GEM - Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring Program. McCammon introduced the GEM Program presentation by reviewing the Trustee Council's actions in March on the Restoration Reserve and the Council's direction to develop a draft plan. Science Coordinator, Dr. Phil Mundy, described the why, where and what of the program—the program's vision, mission and goals—and their importance in meeting human needs and interests. Dr. Bob Spies presented the scientific context for the GEM program, including a description of three major environmental signals currently occurring in the Gulf of Alaska: global warming, Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) and El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO). The PDO signal appears to be the strongest in influencing current changes in the northern Gulf of Alaska ecosystem. McCammon described further the approach and structure of GEM—with two major components envisioned: filling in the gaps of long-term monitoring needs and complementary, shorter-term research. The program will also include elements of traditional knowledge, stewardship and community involvement. Chris Beck said he was glad to see management, conservation and public information and involvement included in the program. Jim King said he did not see the human animal included as part of the ecosystem and would like to see archaeology, anthropology, social concerns, economics, and community planning included in the program. He asked why a university institute could not implement the program.

Dan Hull suggested that a reference to benefits of humans be included in the mission statement. Chuck Meacham thought that the research part of the program might be appropriate for endowed chairs. Torie Baker reminded the PAG that UA President Mark Hamilton had requested the Council to consider funding the Marine Advisory Program. Beck asked if the January workshop could focus on similar efforts in other regions of the country such as Chesapeake Bay, the Great Lakes, southern Florida, etc.

Baker wants to make sure the resource managers in the trenches are involved and their needs met. King asked how legally you could add more money to the fund. McCammon said they would explore options. Hull asked about tracking invasive species.

Small Parcel Process - McCammon gave a brief overview of the small parcel program discussion paper and reported that the Council had directed the Restoration Office staff to keep working on these issues and develop some options. Pam Brodie thought using agency priorities for acquisition was sensible, simplifying the program was wise, and turning it over to a non-profit might be good over the long-term. Chip Dennerlein noted that the program has worked so far because of public involvement and the strong support of the Council. The current program should only be replaced with something that has similar checks and balances. Hull said he would be reluctant to change the current PAG structure. King said he would like the system designed so not all the money gets spent on one piece of land. The fund should leverage other funds. Brodie said that habitat should be protected on an ecosystem basis.

Concluding Comments

Dennerlein - GEM is the culmination of all our work.

King - GEM is a far-sighted program.

Baker - Projects like CIIMMS are important—need better data management.

Valley - This will increase our ability to get information out to end users.

Zeine - The program and information will be very helpful.

Hull - GEM is moving along in the right direction.

McBurney - Vast potential for partnership. GEM should become a model for other efforts.

Meacham - GEM feels good, less comfortable with CIIMMS—not sure it does more than other search engines.

H. FOLLOW-UP:

The PAG will meet by teleconference in late January/early February and again in March/April on two issues related to GEM:

public information and involvement; and

TEK, community involvement, stewardship and education.

A meeting in Anchorage on the FY 2001 work plan will be held in either June or July.

I. NEXT MEETINGS:

November 15-16, 1999 Herring Workshop - EVOS Office

December 16, 1999 Trustee Council teleconference on deferred FY2000 projects

January 18-19, 2000 Annual Workshop - Captain Cook Hotel

Late-January/early February 2000 PAG teleconference on GEM issues

March/April 2000 teleconference on GEM issues

June or July 2000 PAG meeting on FY 2001 work plan

J. ATTACHMENTS: (Handouts, for those not present)

1. CIIMMS Web Page printout
2. Overall Timetable for GEM Program
3. Resolution of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council concerning the Involvement of Alaska Native in the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring Program

K. CERTIFICATION:

PAG Chairperson

Date

Meeting Summary

A. GROUP: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Public Advisory Group (PAG)

B. DATE/TIME: July 15-16, 1999

C. LOCATION: Anchorage, Alaska

D. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
Chris Beck (7/15)	Public-at-Large
Sheri Buretta (7/15)	Subsistence
Dave Cobb	Public-at-Large
Chip Dennerlein (7/16)	Conservation
Dan Hull	Public-at-Large
James King	Public-at-Large
Chuck Meacham, Chair	Science/Academic
Brenda Schwantes	Public-at-Large
Stacy Studebaker	Recreation Users
Chuck Totemoff	Native Landowners
Howard Valley	Forest Products
Ed Zeine	Local Government
Bruce Bruseth for John Harris	Alaska State House of Representatives (<i>ex officio</i>)

E. NOT REPRESENTED:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
Rupert Andrews	Sport Hunting and Fishing
Torie Baker	Commercial Fishing
Pam Brodie	Environmental
Eleanor Huffines	Commercial Tourism
Mary McBurney	Aquaculture
Loren Leman	Alaska State Senate (<i>ex officio</i>)

F. OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
John French	Public
Hugh Short	Trustee Council Staff
Molly McCammon	Trustee Council Staff
Doug Mutter	Designated Federal Officer, Dept. of Interior
Sandra Schubert	Trustee Council Staff
Claudia Slater	AK Department of Fish and Game
Ray ReLonde	UAF/MAP
Bob Spies	Chief Scientist, Trustee Council
Gene Therriault	Alaska State House of Representatives

Cherri Womac
Kevin Callahan

Trustee Council Staff
Patton Boggs

G. SUMMARY:

The meeting was convened July 15 at 1:05 p.m. by Chuck Meacham, Vice-Chairperson. After roll call, the January 22, 1999 Meeting Summary was approved.

Molly McCammon reported on Trustee Council (TC) activities. She reviewed the action the TC took on the Restoration Reserve (the resolution and budget sheets were mailed to PAG members). Of the estimated \$170 million to be in the Reserve by October 2002, \$55 million will be for habitat protection (mostly small parcels) and \$115 million will be for research, monitoring, and general restoration. This distribution has made it easier to work towards getting Congressional action to allow the TC to invest funds outside the Court System to gain a higher rate of return.

The PAG discussed the reserve. The current boundaries of the Court Settlement still apply. McCammon said the current approach for the Reserve projects (to start in FY 2003) is to focus on an ecosystem level approach in the marine environment in the spill area. Projects still need to relate to resources and services injured by the spill or connected to the overall marine ecosystem. No decision has been made about reopening the Settlement to obtain additional funds from Exxon.

Jim King noted that research is what highly trained academics do, and monitoring is what agency technical types do. He questioned the relation to normal agency work. Stacy Studebaker said flexibility is needed in spending so that other potential impacts to injured resources could be addressed.

Sheri Buretta asked about the availability of \$20 million for community based projects. She wants to involve local people in funding decisions. Chuck Totemoff stated that community projects can provide new sources of food and should be continued. Brenda Schwantes asked if we have moved toward people and economic issues. McCammon replied that dealing with injured resources was still the requirement of the Settlement. Dave Cobb said he would like to see the TC support using \$20 million of the Reserve for community based projects. Chris Beck would like to discuss other options before voting on this. Totemoff wondered if \$20 million was enough. It is not clear what the definition of "community based" is.

McCammon said that Representative Therriault introduced a resolution (mailed to PAG members) supporting improved investment of funds and use of Reserve funds for research and possibly endowed University chairs. University of Alaska President Hamilton has also voiced support for this resolution. McCammon said the focus now is on developing a long-term plan and then looking at whether endowed chairs would be useful in implementing it. Therriault said that he was pleased with the steps the TC had taken. He said many in the legislature felt enough land had been purchased and now the focus should be on studying the ecosystem to better understand our resources.

McCammon reported that the Murkowski bill to change how EVOS funds are invested is still

in Congress after two years of effort. She hopes it will pass this year so that it can be implemented by January 2000. EVOS funds could be managed by a State fund or private investment manager. The \$170 million Reserve estimate is now based on a 5% interest rate.

McCammon gave an update on the habitat protection program. The Eyak and Afognak Joint Venture deals are done. The TC is still working with Koniag on an expanded conservation easement for the Karluk and Sturgeon Rivers. The status of small parcels is included on the spreadsheet attached to the Restoration Resolution mailed to PAG members.

McCammon discussed the work being done to prepare a draft of the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) program (see handout #2), which would provide for long-term monitoring of the marine ecosystem. A fall workshop is planned with PAG members. This program needs to be ready by FY 2003. The National Academy of Sciences has agreed to review the program design if funded by the TC. The staff are looking at other monitoring efforts in the area and how they interrelate. Bob Spies noted that long-term cycles in the Northern Gulf of Alaska affect resources and human uses. The program would be geared toward answering specific questions and developing tools for managers to use for better management and stewardship. McCammon estimated \$5 million per year would be available for this at a minimum, including administration costs.

Dan Hull said that it is important to use existing information (especially for human activities) and incorporate this into GEM. Beck agreed, stating that impacts of human activities should be monitored. Meacham suggested a PAG workgroup might be of help. King suggested University Chairs could do some of this work. Schwantes said she did not know if this was the way to go. Meacham suggested the program description talk about how products can be meaningful to people and involve communities. King questioned the lack of involvement of the University. Spies explained that he had spent time at UAF in developing the first draft and that a university representative would be at the next meeting.

King said that financial expertise would be useful to advise on how to manage the Reserve funds. Studebaker asked about the future of the PAG. McCammon said that was a topic for future discussion.

Cobb outlined the suggested \$20 million community based project funds as an "earmarked" intersection of funds for research, monitoring and general restoration projects. He said they should meet the criteria for project approval. \$20 million is about 14% of the \$115 million portion of the Reserve. Buretta said that communities often cannot successfully compete for funds. Ed Zeine agreed. Schwantes said community funds must be separate or they will be "lost." Studebaker noted that a problem is underutilization of local people in projects. Howard Valley said that there will always be more projects than funds to go around. McCammon asked about the need for geographic balance in fund allocation. Meacham stated that scientists have an advantage over communities in proposing projects—an incentive is needed to get more community involvement.

The following was discussed extensively by the PAG: setting aside an amount of the Reserve for community based projects where proposals compete and must meet the standard criteria for approval, but if all of the earmarked funds do not get used in a fiscal year for community based

projects, those funds would stay available for future community based projects. Spies suggested someone needed to work with communities on proposal preparation.

Formation of a workgroup was discussed. McCammon suggested perhaps a teleconference before the October GEM workshop.

After a recess, PAG members attended the 7:00 p.m. public hearing on the Draft FY 2000 Work Plan.

The meeting reconvened July 16 at 8:30 a.m.

McCammon introduced the FY 2000 Draft Work Plan (mailed to PAG members). The target amount is about \$8-9 million for projects. Current recommendations for proposals are to fund 59 projects, defer 17 projects until current work is completed, and to not fund 57 proposals.

McCammon noted the recent loss of several staff: Jeff Lawrence, Eric Myers, and Stan Senner. Senner's position is the only one to be filled.

Spies went through the Draft Work Plan, by cluster, identifying projects in the fund, fund contingent, and defer categories.

McCammon noted that a weakness with herring research is that there is no one expert pulling all the information together and synthesizing it.

Chip Dennerlein supported naming halibut in project 478, since this is important research. Project 557 has merit--overwintering information is key. Studebaker thinks that winter research is often not done, and 557 would be a good project. Spies said they will reexamine 557. Cobb suggested adding king crab surveys to the spot shrimp surveys project. Totemoff suggested that landowners as well as tribes needed to be involved in project 052. Schwantes suggested a scholarship program to get local communities involved. Dennerlein suggested a mentor program or workshops to improve local participation. He also asked if a follow-up was possible to verify results of Kenai River bank stabilization projects.

McCammon said that project 605 was to upgrade the EVOS web site to make information more available (see handout #5). She asked for comments on this project and on project 100 (see handout #4), the administrative budget. Next year will see a cut in PAG costs by holding two meetings by teleconference and by eliminating the PAG field trip. There will be two in-person meetings. Next year's proposed meeting schedule (see below) was reviewed. Issues for PAG discussion include: GEM, long-term small parcel program, long-term governance, and future public input.

The field trip itinerary (see handout #6) was discussed.

Meacham listed FY 2000 projects that PAG members felt needed additional attention:

00478 pink salmon straying
00396 shark study

00557 overwinter food studies
00482 PSP testing
00052 community involvement

King praised the EVOS staff for their good work and an outstanding process. Studebaker said she would like to see tree-ring analysis part of the long-term monitoring effort, and an examination of contaminants in the North Gulf of Alaska. Zeine said he appreciated the process. Meacham suggested the PAG give a commendation to Myers and Senner for their good work at EVOS.

The meeting adjourned July 16 at 12:10 p.m.

H. FOLLOW-UP:

1. PAG members are to get their fall schedules to Cherri Womac so she can schedule the fall field trip, tentatively set for September 7-8.
2. McCammon will prepare a commendation for Myers and Senner to be signed by members of the PAG.
3. McCammon will schedule a teleconference on community based projects prior to the October GEM workshop.

I. NEXT MEETINGS:

September 1999 Field Trip
October 1999 Workshop on GEM
January 2000 EVOS Annual Workshop
Early-June or Mid-July 2000 Meeting on FY 2001 work plan

J. ATTACHMENTS: (Handouts, for those not present)

1. Summary of Areas of Agreement re. Restoration Reserve (PAG June 2, 1998)
2. GEM Working Group
3. Clarence Petty letter to the TC
4. Project Management (Project 00250) Budget
5. Project Number 00605 Draft Proposal
6. Tentative PAG Filed Trip Itinerary

K. CERTIFICATION:

PAG Chairperson

Date

Meeting Summary

DRAFT

A. GROUP: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Public Advisory Group (PAG)

B. DATE/TIME: January 22, 1999

C. LOCATION: Anchorage, Alaska

D. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
Rupert Andrews, Chair	Sport Hunting and Fishing
Torie Baker	Commercial Fishing
Chris Beck	Public-at-Large
Pam Brodie	Environmental
Sheri Buretta	Subsistence
Dave Cobb	Public-at-Large
Eleanor Huffines	Commercial Tourism
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Ed Zeine	Local Government
(<i>ex officio</i>)	Alaska State Senate
(<i>ex officio</i>)	Alaska State House of Representatives

F. OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Grant Baker	Public
Veronica Christman	Trustee Council Staff
Glenn Elison	Trustee Council rep. for Dept. of Interior
Dave Gibbons	Trustee Council rep. for Dept. of Agriculture
Joe Hunt	Trustee Council Staff
Barat LaPorte	Bogle & Gates
Molly McCammon	Trustee Council Staff
Doug Mutter	Designated Federal Officer, Dept. of Interior
Eric Myers	Trustee Council Staff

Theresa Obermeyer
Steve Pennoyer
Laura Johnson
Bud Rice
Frank Rue

Sandra Schubert
Stan Senner
Claudia Slater
Bob Spies
Craig Tillery
Cherri Womac
Dan Easton

Public
Trustee Council rep. for NOAA
Chugachmiut
National Park Service
Trustee Council rep. for the AK Dept of Fish &
Game
Trustee Council Staff
Trustee Council Staff
AK Department of Fish and Game
Chief Scientist, Trustee Council
Trustee Council rep. for AK Dept. of Law
Trustee Council Staff
Trustee Council rep. for the AK Dept. of
Environmental Conservation

G. SUMMARY:

The PAG participated in a joint public hearing and meeting with the Trustee Council. Please see the minutes for the Trustee Council meeting for more information.

A joint public hearing was held Thursday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m. Topics of discussion included restoration reserve options, the proposed updated list of injured resources, and archaeological restoration. Approximately 35 people testified.

The joint meeting reconvened Friday at 8:30 a.m. with additional public comments followed by the Executive Director's report, given by Molly McCammon. Then followed a presentation by Stan Senner and Bob Spies of the proposed changes to the list of injured resources.

The Trustee Council asked for the PAG's views on the restoration reserve. Chris Beck reviewed the PAG statement of June 2, 1998. Mary McBurney raised the question of the reserve's relationship to other research funds being created for Alaska, such as those for Bering Sea efforts. Pam Brodie said that research funds did not need to be carried on forever and that there were some areas of land that were unique and may need to be acquired for protection of resources. Rupe Andrews agreed, noting that the Karluk and Sturgeon Rivers on Kodiak were examples. Eleanor Huffines asked how the difference between normal agency funding and spill-related research would be handled in the future.

Dave Cobb said that people living in the area do not want more land purchased by the governments, but that the reserve could be used to leverage more money for the region. Chuck Meacham said that we have successfully spent \$400 million on land acquisition and should now focus on acquisition of knowledge. Beck said the focus should be on information for good management and stewardship of resources. Torie Baker stated that the work on marine fisheries has done a lot of good so far. Chuck Totemoff said he supports more community-oriented projects. Jim King emphasized the use of an endowment that was geared toward enhancement of the resources of the region. He said the Trustees should work with the University of Alaska on the design of an institute or endowment before a decision is made.

After the joint meeting with the Trustee Council, the PAG session was opened at 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson Andrews. The principal item of business was the election of Officers. Nominations were opened. Meacham moved for unanimous consent to retain Rupe Andrews as chair and Dave Cobb as vice-chair. Beck suggested Meacham may want to serve in one of these roles. Cobb said he was busy and would be glad to relinquish the vice-chair. It was passed unanimously that Andrews serve as chair and Meacham serve as vice-chair.

PAG members offered their comments on the meeting. King said that spending time with the Trustee Council was desirable. Sheri Buretta said that the PAG seems to work well together. Totemoff felt there was a good balance today. Huffines said that more input from individual trustees would be useful—that they should be invited to PAG meetings. Beck said it was a good meeting, but community projects needed clarifying and the next discussions should be on restoration reserve governance.

Baker agreed that it was a good session and that it was good for the PAG to hear public testimony. Andrews said that time with the trustees was too short and that more feedback was needed from villages. He noted that he and King were disappointed at the lack of involvement of the PAG in last year's work session. McBurney stated that this was one of the more satisfying meetings to date. Studebaker thought it was a good meeting and the trustees seemed open and wanted PAG views. Brodie agreed it was positive and that it was good for the PAG to attend the public hearing. Meacham stated that the PAG has a challenge to communicate with the trustees and that the informal breaks were great for discussing issues with them.

Dan Hull was impressed with the work of the PAG and sensed that the trustees had not made up their minds on the reserve. Cobb agreed, but felt some hesitancy on the trustees' part to engage the PAG; not all of the trustees offered feedback. Beck said that the PAG should work to bridge the gap with the environmental community on the land purchase issue, he thinks there may be a common ground. Andrews noted that there was still a question about discretion to move forward, depending on the Federal Judge's position and how it fits in. Cobb echoed this, asking if the rules could be changed, how? Baker said it was important for the PAG members to discuss issues with the public they represent. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

H. FOLLOW-UP:

1. PAG members are to let Cherri Womac know of their plans to attend the Tenth Anniversary Symposium.

I. NEXT MEETINGS: To be announced

J. ATTACHMENTS: (Handouts, for those not present) NONE

K. CERTIFICATION:

PAG Chairperson

Date